

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-10, and 13-17 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuhiro (U.S. Pat. No. 2000-243254). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to include the subject matter of claims 4 and 12, respectively. Claims 4 and 12 were indicated as including allowable subject matter. Because claims 1 and 9 now include the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 12, respectively, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 9, and their corresponding dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2-4, 12, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, as stated above, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to include the limitations of claim 4 and 12, respectively. Therefore, the currently pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 14-17, these claims were added in the Amendment dated June 22, 2006. As stated in the Amendment dated June 22, 2006, these claims included allowable subject matter and were believed to be in condition for allowance.

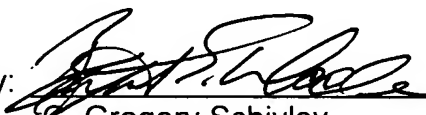
Notwithstanding, the Examiner has neglected to reject or mention these claims in the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 14-17 were properly presented for examination in the Amendment dated June 22, 2006, and are in condition for allowance. Regardless, Applicant respectfully requests clarification of this matter in the next Office communication.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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